

reinforcing the seal sufficiently to withstand high pressures which are generated [on] from cooking [of] the contents of the container[.];

(iv) the rigid cap [including one of] further having a first cam and follower pair [engageable in use], which when in use is engaged with [the other of] a second cam and follower pair located on [a] the container neck, [that is closeable by the closure], relative movement between the first and second cam and follower pairs in a predetermined direction [causing] causes the rigid cap and the container neck to approach one another, thereby increasing the pressure exerted by the [resiliently] deformable member on the flexible membrane[.]; and

(v) the rigid cap further [including] having a laminar member and an annular skirt, the skirt extending [depending] downwardly [therefrom]from the laminar member, and the second cam [or the] and follower pair is [being] secured on an upper wall of the skirt,

wherein the laminar member is spaced from the flexible membrane by a distance less than the maximum possible extension of the flexible membrane towards the laminar member.

2. (Previously Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A container assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the first and second cam and follower pairs include co-operating screw threads formed respectively on the container neck and the rigid cap.

4. (Currently Amended) A container assembly according to Claim 1 [shaped to close the container neck] further having an annular flange [for defining part of the said seal], the resiliently deformable member [being, in use of the closure,] is substantially congruent with the flange, and [whereby]wherein the rigid cap is in place over the container, the resiliently deformable member presses the flexible membrane against the flange.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A container assembly according the Claim 1 wherein the laminar member is a circular disc, and the skirt [depending] extending from the outer periphery thereof.

7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously Amended) A container assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the resiliently deformable member comprises a foamed material secured to the rigid cap.
9. (Previously Amended) A container assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the flexible membrane comprises a metal foil adhesively securable on the container neck.
10. (Currently Amended) A container assembly according to Claim 4 wherein [the closure in shaped for use] the rigid cap is shaped for use with [a] the [generally cylindrical] container neck which is generally cylindrical in shape.
11. (Currently Amended) A container assembly according to Claim 1 including a lifting tab [hingeably]hingedly secured to the flexible membrane and is comprised of [by] the same material as that of the flexible membrane.
12. (Previously Canceled)
13. (Previously Amended) A container assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the rigid cap supports the body of the can in a radial direction.
14. (Currently Amended) A method of closing a container [with a closure to form a container assembly] according to Claim 1 comprising the steps of:
- (i) adhesively securing [said] the flexible membrane on the open end of [a] the container neck [of the container], thereby forming [said] a seal;
 - (ii) engaging the first and second cam and follower pairs of [a said] the rigid cap and the container neck, with one another; and
 - (iii) moving the rigid cap and the container neck relative to one another to cause relative movement between the first and second cam and the follower pairs in the predetermined direction, thereby causing the resiliently deformable member to press the flexible membrane against the container in the vicinity of the seal sufficiently to maintain the seal against

high pressures which are generated [in the container on cooking of its contents] from cooking the contents of the container.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 14 [including] further having the step of securing the flexible membrane [on the open end of the said container neck] by [use of] a heat-sealing method such as heat contact, ultrasonic, induction or hot air heating.

16. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the step of moving the rigid cap and the container neck relative to one another includes rotating the rigid cap and the container relative to one another.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the step of adhesively securing the flexible membrane on the open end of the container neck includes [the sub steps] additional steps of applying adhesive material to the flexible membrane and/or the container neck; engaging the flexible membrane and the container neck with one another to define the seal; and curing the adhesive material.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 17 wherein the [substep]additional step of curing the adhesive material includes heating thereof.

19. (Previously Canceled)

20. (Previously Canceled)

21. (Previously Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 14 further including the steps of:

adding food to the container through a second open end of the container which is opposite [said] the open end closed by [said closure] the rigid cap;

closing [said] the second open end by a conventional can end;

heating [said] the food within [said] the container to cook [said] the food; and

preventing rupture of [said] the flexible membrane caused by
[due to] internal container pressure [caused by said heating] by the presence
of [said] the laminar member of [said] the rigid cap.